Following new line proposals pertaining to Tamil Nadu have been processed for necessary approvals subject to the condition that State Government shares 50% of the cost of the projects:—

(i) Thanjavur-Ariyalur (50.35 kms)

(ii) Morapur-Dharmapuri (35.9 kms)

(iii) Dindigul-Kumuli *via* Bodinayakkanur (134 kms)

(iv) Tiruvannamalai-Jolarpettai (98.08 kms)

(v) Needamanglam-Pattukottai *via* Mannargudi (54.3 kms)

(b) and (c) The ongoing projects are being progressed as per availability of resources.

Rail cum Road overbridge over Brahmaputra at Saraighat

148. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has conducted the survey for the second Rail cum Road Bridge over Brahmaputra at Saraighat;

(b) if so, the details of assessment made thereof;

(c) when the survey is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government of Assam has represented for converting the proposed road bridge at Saraighat under NHDP to a rail cum road bridge; and

(e) if so, the details pre-feasibility and economy thereof and the response of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A survey for construction of rail bridge only over river Brahmaputra adjacent to existing Saraighat rail cum road bridge has been conducted. As per the survey, cost of the project has been worked out as Rs. 300.67 crore.

(d) and (e) Chief Minister, Assam had written in this regard. No survey has so far been conducted. Prima facie, it has been considered that the existing broad gauge lines *via* Saraighat bridge and *via* Jogighopa bridge alongwith gauge conversion of Rangia-Murkongselek and Bogibeel bridge would be able to meet the traffic requiremnet.

National Projects in NER

149. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned and utilized for execution of various National Projects in the NER during the last two years and the allocation made for the year 2008-09 in Railway budget as well as General Budget 2008-09 against each project; and

(b) the progress made on various components of works and target set for those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Details of funds allocated and actually spent on each of the National Projects in the last 2 years and the allocation made during 2008-09 are as under:—

(Rupees in crore)

Name of the project	Year of approval	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	Status
		Allocation as per Budget	Actual expenditure	Allocation as per Budget	Actual expenditure	Allocation as per Railway Budget	
New Line							
Jiribam-Imphal (Tupul)	2003-04	15.00	3.06	15.00	31.34	25.00	Final Location Survey in 68 km. completed. Land acquisition, earth-work and bridge work taken up.
Kumarghat-Agartala	1996-97	100	160.73	45	180.82	10.00	Completed.
Azra-Byrnihat	2006-07	0.01	0	1.0	0.02	10.00	Final Location Survey, land acquisition taken up.
Dimapur-Zubza (Kohima)	2006-07	0.01	0	1.0	0	10.00	Final Location Survey taken up.
Bogibeel Bridge	1997-98	230	244.64	249.45	243.96	75.00	Land acquisition, earth work, bridges, boulder collection *etc.* taken up.
Bhairabhi-Sairang	2008-09					0.01	Included in the Budget 2008-09.
Agartala-Sabroom	2008-09					0.01	Included in the Budget 2008-09.
Gauge Conversion							
Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam and Badarpur to Kumarghat	1996-97	125	319.55	90	348.45	135.94	Earth work, bridge work, tunneling *etc.* taken up.
Rangia-Murkongselek with linked fingers	2003-04	2.07	2.10	22	4.05	50.00	Earth work, bridge work in Rangia-Rangpara North taken up.

No allocation was made for the National Projects in the General Budget 2008-09. Funds for 2008-09 would be made available after Ministry of Finance processes the first Supplementary Demand for Grants 2008-09.

Recovery of compensation paid to victims of Mumbai blasts

150. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have instituted legal proceedings to recover the interest charges paid alongwith the compensation to some of the victims of 7th November, Mumbai blasts;

(b) if so, whether the interest amounts are as low as Rs. 400/- or Rs. 600/- and these were paid by the insurance company to the victims and the same has not gone from Railway's kitty; and

(c) what was the amount of compensation to such victims from whom the recovery is being made through legal process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Traffic menace

151. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the road traffic is going to be a major gigantic unmanageable problem in a few years, in all Metro Cities whether there would be an alternative by the Railways to tackle this major bottleneck;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there has been a detailed study on the traffic menace either by Railways or Road Transport and Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railways has taken over a number of projects for execution on its own/cost sharing with State Government. Details of major projects completed/under execution are shown in table given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Kms.	Anticipated Cost (Rs. in crore)	Cost Sharing
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Dum-Dum-Tollygunge Design and Construction of Rapid Transit System	16.45	1716.95	Railway